

IS IT UNTO DEATH

Blaine is a Victim of Quick Consumption.

DISSOLUTION AT ANY DAY

The Distinguished Statesman is Unable to Leave His Bed, Unless it Be for the Grave.

New York, Dec. 14.—The following special dispatch from Washington has been received: James G. Blaine is now on his death bed. The strength-sapping malady from which he has suffered for so long a time, has assumed a form which warns his family and friends of a speedy termination. The disease attacked his lungs a short time ago, and its course has baffled the skill of his physicians.

The visit of Dr. E. C. Janeway of New York to Mr. Blaine is indicative of the extreme anxiety of the family, when the fact became known that Mr. Blaine's lungs were succumbing to the ravages of the disease plans were laid to convey the distinguished invalid to Pasadena, Cal., in the hope that a mild climate might enable him to rally. Mr. Blaine's weakness, however, increased so rapidly that it was deemed unsafe to remove him, and the trip to California was abandoned. There is reason to believe that the ex-secretary's death may occur at any day.

The Rev. Fr. Ducey's visit to the Blaine residence at this time has naturally revived the talk about Mr. Blaine's embracing the Roman Catholic faith. A strong belief prevails here that it is Mr. Blaine's desire to die a communicant of the church of which his mother was a devout member.

Washington, Dec. 15.—At 2 o'clock this morning the Blaine residence was entirely darkened, the family and servants having retired. There is no evidence whatever that a sick watch is being kept. There is no light burning in any of the rooms or hallways.

MILLS WAS IGNORANT.

He Denies Having Commented on the Crisp Insult.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Senator Mills of Texas today sent the following letter to E. Ellery Anderson, president of the Reform club, New York City, regarding the Crisp incident:

"SENATE, Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—Col. E. Ellery Anderson, president of the Reform club, New York City, is stated in the New York Sun of the 13th inst., that I said to several democrats Saturday afternoon of the 10th inst.:

"Speaker Crisp has come to town with a speech prepared, but I know that he will not have the chance to make it, and the Tribune of the same date says that I am reported to have said, 'Crisp has got a speech ready to deliver at the Reform club dinner to-night and has given it out to the press, but he won't get a chance to fire it off. He will find that the word is not in show.'"

"Both of these statements are false, wholly so. I never knew that Mr. Crisp was invited to speak, or had a speech prepared, or that he was invited to the banquet, or that he was in the city until I sat down to the table and saw his name on the program and the seat he was to occupy. He soon appeared on the stand. I advanced and shook his hand and aided him in finding the seat set apart for him. I learned for the first time in the papers Sunday that he was indignant at the treatment."

"I don't believe the club or any of its officers intended to show him the slightest disrespect, and I have no more knowledge of the matter than the man in the moon."

E. Q. Mills.

GRANTS PARDONS.

The President Uses His Power to Gladden Prisoners' Hearts.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The president today presented Christmas gifts to a number of people in the shape of pardons. They were granted Manuella Martinez of New Mexico, convicted of adultery; N. Page of Iowa, convicted of violating the postal laws; Reginald Martinez of Texas, convicted of smuggling; and Wesley Wooten of Maryland, convicted of manslaughter.

In the case of John Howard of Kentucky, convicted of violating the internal revenue laws, the fine of \$1,000 is remitted. John Hoffer of Pennsylvania, convicted of counterfeiting, receives a remission of a fine of \$100 and costs. John M. Cox of Mississippi, convicted of violating the internal revenue laws, has imprisonment remitted on the payment of the fine and costs.

John L. Jenkins of Georgia, who was convicted of perjury and sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment, has his sentence reduced to four months.

The president denied pardons to Victor McCreary of the District of Columbia, convicted of manslaughter; Wm. Walbridge of New York, convicted of violating the pension laws; Wm. Wilson Knott of Illinois, convicted of violation of postal laws; and J. H. Ayres of Tennessee, convicted of violating the postal laws.

The president declined to take an action in the case of Marion Douglas of South Carolina, sentenced to three years' imprisonment for violating the internal revenue laws.

Anti-Option Bill Discussed.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The famous McGarran bill, which is the subject of the senate today till 2 o'clock when it went over till tomorrow, without action. The question was whether to be passed by both houses last session referred the matter to the court of private land claims over the president's veto.

The session was occupied by the anti-option bill. Mr. George of Mississippi occupied the floor, and leaving his speech still unfinished when the time for adjournment arrived. His strictures on the New York cotton exchange were of a bitter tone, the business of that institution being denounced as "unlawful traffic," and its sales of cotton being characterized as "sales of phantom bales."

Passed the Army Bill.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The time of the house today was consumed in the consideration of the army appropriation bill, the first of the regular appropriation bills to be reported, as the outcome showed, the first to be passed, but the early passing of this bill progresses nothing. The first appropriation bill passed by the first session of the

IS THIS HIS BLUFF?

Carnot Threatens to Resign the Presidency.

SHOULD ROUVIER RETIRE

The President's Father and Brother Are Involved in the Panama Scandal—Alas Poor France.

London, Dec. 14.—A dispatch from Paris to the Central news bureau says: The rumors that President Carnot will resign shortly are confirmed this evening. At Tuesday's cabinet meeting, during the heated discussion between M. Ribot and M. Rouvier, the president interposed the remark: "The action of certain ministers renders my retention of office almost impossible."

"M. Rouvier thereupon left the meeting declaring that he would resign. President Carnot's difficulty is increased by the reports that his father and his brother are involved in the Panama canal scandal. President Carnot himself, and not M. Ribot, was the one who went to M. Tardieu.

The dispatch is as follows: "I call upon you, as a friend of my family, not to refuse office. If you do I will resign tomorrow."

ARGENTINE FINANCES.

The Rothschilds Trying to Arrange for a Payment of Bond Interest.

London, Dec. 14.—The Rothschilds commission which arranged with the Argentine government the suspension of interest in payments in cash has been using its great influence in opposing the recommendations of Dr. Romero, the finance minister, who now wants the interest to be paid.

Dr. Romero's recommendation amounts practically to a breach of agreement between Argentine and the bondholders and would be an effective hindrance to any further assistance being given to the Argentine government by European financiers.

The Rothschild commission confided the Moratorium arrangement in Morgan & Co., who, since the collapse of the Baring bank, have been the leading medium between the Argentine government and the bondholders.

The large interest which this Anglo-American banking firm has in the honest administration of Argentine finance entitles it to use its power in keeping the government on a straight course.

During the Baring crisis the question was discussed in European financial circles. The Romero project has caused a renewal of the question whether the three powers—Germany, France and Great Britain—could not themselves collect the customs revenue, applying the proceeds to the services of the debt.

When the question of intervention was first mooted France and Germany entertained it feebly, whilst Lord Salisbury objected. Argentina has a more assured period of prosperity before her now, so the motion of intervention less appeals to the bondholders. But the very fact that the question of force being employed proves how investors distrust the position.

Debating the Army Bill.

Berlin, Dec. 14.—The debate on the first reading of the army bill was continued in the reichstag today. Freiherr von Manteuffel, a prominent leader of the conservative party, resented the aspirations cast upon the conservative party by Chancellor von Caprivi, who a few days ago declared in the reichstag that the conservatives were supporters of the Reichstag.

Then Chancellor von Caprivi replied to Freiherr von Manteuffel. He referred to a report published in the Kreuz Zeitung of the recent meeting of conservatives, and said that he drew from the report the conclusion that the party had sympathy for the man who had been condemned by the judges of the land as an asperser of the army. This statement was greeted with cries of "Oh, oh," by the conservatives.

To Form a New Cabinet.

Montreal, Dec. 14.—Mr. Tallon, who has been summoned by the lieutenant-governor of Quebec to form a new administration, left for Quebec this evening. There is the best authority for saying that all the present ministers are invited to retain their portfolios, and that the only change that they will do so. There is a probability that Mr. Tallon will be sworn in as president of the executive council, the office held by the retiring premier, DeBoucherville.

Smoothing Italy's Plumage.

Rome, Dec. 14.—The Italian government recently made a protest to the United States government against the quarantine regulations adopted by the latter government. Today a reply was received from Washington explaining that the restrictions against immigration applied to all European states. If it were otherwise no objection would be made to the landing of Italian immigrants after they had been subjected to twenty days' quarantine.

England Withdrawing Troops.

London, Dec. 14.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegram Company from Cairo states that the British garrison in Egypt is about to be reduced owing to the present effective condition of the army of the khedive.

Democrats Endorse the Steel.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 14.—A. L. New, chairman of the state committee, and John Charles Thomson, its secretary, are the officers of a congress of Wyoming democrats now in session here. Every county in the state is represented. The action of Osborn in seizing the office of governor was qualifiedly endorsed and a complete report of the situation was compiled for the use of United States Senators Bruce, Carlisle and Gorman. The meeting will finish its business tomorrow.

Boom in Coffins.

Big Stone Gap, Va., Dec. 14.—A crowd of toughs gathered in the office of the Daley iron mines at Hogan station, forty miles from here, the other night and told the old darky woman who slept in the front room that they proposed to run the mines. The old woman got out of bed, picked up two shotguns and backed to the rear room, where H. L. Monteria, the manager, slept. Monteria took the weapons, and in ten seconds there were two men and three fingers of another on the ground outside, and Monteria and two

WINCHESTER BULLETS THROUGH HIS HAT.

The crowd ran, carrying off the two bodies, and only the three fingers were found the next morning. Yesterday there were said to be two funerals at Hogan and a man had three finger stumps dressed by a doctor in that region. This man is said to be Hugh Morgan, a notorious desperado. He and his gang have terrorized the Hogan. The two dead men were members. Morgan is said to be wounded in the stomach.

RELIGIOUS OMAHA.

The Whole Town Stops Business to Attend Revival Meetings.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 14.—The rush of business in Omaha ceased for three hours today and for three hours the city assumed a Sabbath air. Three weeks ago B. F. Mills, the great evangelist, came to Omaha, and the churches of the city joined forces to make one grand revival. Then the revival was a success was secured by today's action. All the great department stores, the railroad offices, the banks, wholesale houses, most of the drug stores and nine-tenths of the retail stores closed their doors at 9 a. m. and kept their shutters closed until 4 p. m. and the saloons caught the infection, and the glass doors of a score bore the card, "Closed to Attend the Mills Meeting." It was the greatest religious event in the history of the west.

At 8 o'clock supplementary prayer was held in the city hall, in private houses and at 9 o'clock the wheels of commerce stopped.

A few moments later, at 9:30 o'clock, 4,000 persons were packed beneath its roof. Still the crowds came and the doors of the downtown churches were thrown open and overflowed meetings held. It is estimated that 15,000 people heard the gospel preached in Omaha this afternoon. The streets were practically deserted for the time.

At the exposition hall the Rev. Mr. Mills preached from the text, "He that covers his sins shall not prosper." It was the most eloquent of a series of eloquent sermons. At the close of the sermon 300 people arose for prayer and 200 were signed, signifying that the signers desired henceforth to lead a Christian life. At 11:30 the services were concluded and concluded at midnight. The stores opened and the tide of traffic swept onward again.

Was Col. Sheppard Drunk?

New York, Dec. 14.—The third day's hearing in the case brought by Frank S. Gray against Col. Elliott F. Sheppard to recover \$20,000 damages, lost through an alleged breach of contract, opened this morning in part second of the supreme court. The plaintiff, Mr. Gray, took the stand. In response to the question of the jury, whether he was drunk with Col. Sheppard, Mr. Gray testified that on one occasion the colonel was so full that he had to be helped to the steps of his house. Colonel Sheppard was called in rebuttal. He said that he was never drunk in his life, although he was not a total abstainer.

Try to Form a Pool.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—The general managers of the central traffic lines spent most of today in figuring out a way to extend the trunk line to the west and traffic territory. All the association lines are anxious to form the pool, but are deterred by the number of non-association lines in this territory. It was finally determined to urge the non-association lines to join the trunk line.

It is rumored that the Chicago, Rock Island and St. Louis lines are planning to form a pool. The Chicago, Rock Island and St. Louis lines are planning to form a pool. The Chicago, Rock Island and St. Louis lines are planning to form a pool.

Prof. Smith Will Appeal.

Cincinnati, Dec. 14.—After being formerly suspended from the Presbyterian ministry, Prof. Smith spoke briefly, saying that he had done wrong and had not done so willfully. To a reporter of the United Press the professor explained himself freely concerning the issue of the trial. He said that he was surprised that the penalty was anything more than a rebuke or admonition.

"Will you appeal the case?" was asked.

"Certainly I will," was the reply. "I will see it through."

Murder Quickly Averted.

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 14.—A special to the State Chronicle from Washington, N. C., says: At South Creek, Beaufort county, last night, Robert Rogers, a white man, killed William Hammond, colored; and Tom More, colored, killed Rogers directly afterwards. It is rumored that a woman was the cause. Great excitement prevails.

Head End Collision.

Rome, Ga., Dec. 14.—There was a slight head end collision on the Central railroad this afternoon near Levanador. The trains have to pick their way as best they can since the operators' strike, and a work train ran into a moving freight. One engine was derailed and the freight engine of Brown of the freight badly injured.

Death Near at Hand.

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 14.—Dr. Garbutt, the physician in attendance upon Senator Nelson, stated tonight that his patient was being kept alive by stimulants and that he was liable to pass away at any moment.

Want a Congressional Investigation.

Philadelphia, Dec. 14.—The Federation of Labor delegates spent the day in passing resolutions against the courts and militia and for a congressional investigation of the Court of Appeals labor troubles.

Thieving City Clerk.

Colorado Springs, Col., Dec. 14.—The city clerk, A. H. Gorman, has confessed to deficiency in his accounts of \$6,000. The amount is amply secured by his bondsman. An investigation is in progress.

Far From Settlement.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—The dispute between the striking operators and the Rock Island railway company appears to be as far from settlement as ever, neither side being inclined to yield.

Briggs Heresy Case.

New York, Dec. 14.—The entire session of the Briggs heresy trial today was devoted to discussing the confession of faith.

Christian Scientist Dead.

Ramoth, Dec. 14.—Mrs. Phoebe Cross, a believer in christian science, died Monday night, after a few days' illness, no physician being called.

DEATH IN A MINE

Fifty Lives Lost in a Wigan Colliery.

AN EXPLOSION OF COAL GAS

Fire Adds Its Horrors While Weeping Relatives of the Miners Surround the Mouth of the Shaft.

London, Dec. 14.—A fearful explosion occurred today at the Bamfurlong colliery, Wigan, and not less than fifty lives have been lost. The men went to their work as usual this morning after the colliery had been inspected in the usual way. They had not been at work long when a terrible explosion shook the earth and a cloud of smoke shot up through the shaft. A multitude of people rushed toward the mine and the greatest excitement prevailed. Steps were immediately taken to ascertain the full extent of the disaster and a crowd of volunteers promptly offered to explore the pit.

Later advices from Wigan says that the loss of life by the explosion may not be as great as at first reported. A hundred men remain in the mine with their lives endangered, being unable to get out owing to the fire which followed the explosion.

Fire in the Mine.

The fire is raging fiercely, making it extremely difficult for rescuers to get at the imprisoned miners. The work of rescue is proceeding and volunteers are not deterred by any danger in their efforts to rescue. The efforts of the rescuers are being directed toward putting out the fire, and until it is extinguished the loss of life is difficult to estimate, but there is little hope that many survived the explosion. Twenty miners were brought up by the rescuers from the Bamfurlong mine this afternoon. The remainder are still imprisoned below.

WAS SLOW POISON.

How the Stuff Used at Homestead Was Obtained at a Druggist.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 14.—The story of the selection of the poison alleged to have been used in the execution of the Homestead plot was learned from an authoritative source. As has been stated, the design was to cause the death of any non-union men, but to produce such an epidemic of sickness as to create a panic among them and thus effect a stampede from the works. A prolonged discussion ensued among the conspirators as to the kind of poison to be used, and it was finally decided to consult a druggist. The conspirators represented that they wanted to disable a pugilist so that he could not win a fight in which he was to engage. They were asked if they wanted the drug to act quickly or otherwise. It was stated that they wanted something that would take effect gradually so as not to arouse suspicion. The conspirators were told that a certain preparation could be made that would gradually undermine the strength and if persisted in it would kill the victim in three or four days. The formula of the preparation was obtained, and it is said the ingredients were found in the samples of coffee and soup which were analyzed by the chemists of the company at Braddock, Homestead and Duquesne.

CORNER ON WIVES.

Chicago Bigamist Lands in a Buffalo Police Court.

Buffalo, Dec. 14.—Theodore D. Fisk, who claims to be a brother of Eugene D. Fisk of Chicago, is a prisoner here charged with bigamy. He was arrested on a warrant sworn out by his last wife, who was Miss Alice McLearn of Malden, a suburb of Boston. In the police court he pleaded not guilty and was held for trial in the upper court. Miss McLearn is a handsome young woman of 22 years. After Fisk had been arrested she sat down and cried. She said she met him at her home where he came a few weeks ago and introduced himself as a friend of her father. They became very friendly, and upon her announcing that she was going to Chicago, he followed her to the city, accompanied by her. On the way he proposed marriage and she accepted him. On reaching this city on Monday they were married by the mayor. They remained here until today, when her brother, who has learned that Fisk was a bigamist, caused his arrest. Fisk's former wife was Miss Mary Couch of Chicago. She was deserted by him a year ago, it is said. It is also said that he has at least six living wives in various parts of the country.

THEY WILL SWING.

Chesapeake & Ohio Train Robbers Have Been Fully Identified.

Huntington, W. Va., Dec. 14.—Burrel Forgy, the wounded train robber, was taken from his home to the county jail this morning. T. W. Collins was also arrested this morning before daylight at his home in Bradrick, on the Ohio side, opposite this place. He was confronted by the Hon. Sam Matheison, who had the fight with them on the train. He immediately recognized Collins. Collins was brought at once to this side and landed in jail. The coat found where the robbers left the train, with a scorched collar, corresponding to the location of Forgy's wound, has been identified by Clotilde G. A. Northcott as the one sold to Forgy. Forgy and Collins were companions, and on Saturday were together in the hardware store of Edmunds & Hawkins, inspecting revolvers. There they met Jim Saunders, a 13-year-old boy, who told them he had a navy revolver. Collins bought it from him for \$2.25. This pistol was one of the two captured on the train, and has been positively identified by the boy and a gunsmith who repaired it.

SHRIMP HAD NERVE.

A St. Louis School Teacher Quells a Panic in Her Room.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 14.—At 11:45 this morning one of the pupils in an upper room of the Sheppard school put a pan of coffee on the stove to boil. The steam generated in the can, blew off the top and scattered hot coffee all over the room. This caused a panic

Did of His Wound.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 14.—A. R. Chaffee, mayor of Aiken, who was shot by Col. L. G. Lamar on Monday last, died tonight. He was wounded in an attempt to arrest Lamar for drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

Reforming Toughs.

Kalamazoo, Dec. 14.—Judge Buck sentenced George Mankin and John McNish, two young toughs from Grand Rapids, to eighteen months' imprisonment.

BIT OFF TOO MUCH

A Life Insurance Company's Very Queer Fix.

BIG BUSINESS, LITTLE CAPITAL

But the Concern Is Not in Financial Straits and Is Perfectly Solvent.

Detroit, Dec. 14.—The Imperial Life Insurance company, with offices in the Motzow building, has ceased to transact business, at least temporarily. This fact has given rise to the rumor that the company is in financial straits, but officials deny this. At all events, it is by no means certain that the company will ever write any more policies.

Vice President Cratty explains the condition of the company as follows: "The fact is," he said, "that the company wrote so many policies during the first half of this year as to seriously impair our capital, and we have concluded not to write any more this year. In January we shall hold our annual meeting and hear the reports. At the present time I really can't tell what we will do."

"The fact is," you know, requires a re-serve for every policy written. These heavy drafts are made upon the capital stock. There was our weakness. We have stopped business because we did not think it advisable to make further drafts. We have virtually written no policies since the middle of November. Our impairments amounted to \$1,000,000, to \$300,000 or \$400,000. Our suspension is not due to any lack of present money."

WANTED REVENGE.

When Taylor Left Prison He Swore to Get Even.

JACKSON, Dec. 14.—George Hicks, who knew George Taylor at the prison, stated last evening that Taylor came to see him December 1, in the morning. He wanted to find Dick Silverwood, a despotic ex-convict, whom he knew in the prison. Taylor remarked to Hicks that he was going to get even with a woman near Niles who had done him a dirty trick which sent him to prison, swearing falsely. He said that Silverwood was the man to help him do the job.

Taylor was advised by Hicks to forego his revenge, the latter stating that two terms in prison ought to be enough for anybody, but Taylor said: "I shall never be satisfied until I get even with that woman. I said I would and I will if I live for it."

Hicks went with Taylor and pointed out Norris' second-hand store, where Taylor later purchased the revolver.

LEFT CHECK CUT OFF.

A Shingle Joiner in a Bay City Mill Explodes.

BAY CITY, Dec. 14.—Peter Sney, knot sawyer in Cousins' shingle mill, met with a terrible accident when the shingle joiner, composed of a series of shingles, exploded, blowing him into a thousand pieces. The second floor of the mill, in which the machine was located, was filled with flying iron, and, although there were twenty-three men employed, only two were injured. Sney had the left side of his face torn away, his teeth knocked out and his jaw broken, besides cuts on the forehead and on the right cheek. A piece of iron weighing 200 pounds was thrown overhead, and in falling struck John Shaw on the shoulder. A beam 14x14 inches was nearly cut in two by pieces of the knives.

Evidence Nearly Completed.

ALBANY, Dec. 14.—There was nothing new brought out in the Molitor murder trial. Grossman testified he was home the night of the murder. He knew nothing about it until the next morning. Did not hate Molitor, and never wanted him killed. Mrs. Grossman swore he was at home all the time on the fatal evening. The prosecution began to put on witnesses in rebuttal. Seven have been examined. One Charles Empe testified that on the Sunday prior to the murder Jacobs was at his farm helping to shingle a barn; that on that occasion Jacobs said to him, and in presence of his wife: "Albert Molitor will have to live about two more days."

For the Michigan Building.

IONIA, Dec. 14.—The Columbian committee of Ionia county has received from the Belding Bros. Silk Company, with its compliments, a handsome silk flag, 8x12 feet, trimmed with gold fringe, with gold stars, which will be formally presented to the Columbian committee at their next meeting. The Ionia county committee was delayed to furnish the flag for Michigan's state building, as the flag had been taken the company's last world's fair, and through the energy of its chairman, Mrs. D. R. Colville of Belding, have met with this success.

Muskegon Stabbing Affray.

MUSKEGON, Dec. 14.—A serious and perhaps fatal stabbing affray occurred shortly before midnight last night in the locality known as Puchtown. The participants were two old friends named John Grindle, a German, and John Odion, a Frenchman. Grindle was cut on the side of the neck, one of the cuts severing his windpipe, also in the back of his neck and in his back below his shoulder blade. He is in a dangerous condition. Odion was arrested this morning.

Murderer Arrested.

CARO, Dec. 14.—Deputy Sheriff R. T. Jarvis arrested Rudolph Wenzburg on a charge of murdering Julius Koch Monday night, while drinking in the saloon of Rooble at Reese. Julius Koch and Rudolph Wenzburg became engaged in a dispute, when the landlord ordered them out. Wenzburg went out first and Koch followed afterwards, when they became engaged in a hand-to-hand encounter. Wenzburg stabbed Koch in the side, severing a large artery and cutting the intestines.

Miner Instantly Killed.

IRON MOUNTAIN, Dec. 14.—At the Chapin mine, last night, a black fell a distance of several hundred feet, striking and instantly killing Luigi Leonardelli. He was married and 24 years old.

Reforming Toughs.

Kalamazoo, Dec. 14.—Judge Buck sentenced George Mankin and John McNish, two young toughs from Grand Rapids, to eighteen months' imprisonment.

Lightweights Matched.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Johnny Griffin of Braintree, Mass., and Bill Baxter of England, have been matched to fight for the featherweight championship and \$5,000 before the Colony Club Athletic club. The match is expected to take place some time in February.

Did of His Wound.

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